to streamline Public Distribution System in the country during the current financial year;

(b) whethejr the Central Government have issued any guidelines to the State Governments during the last two months in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) to (c) The State Governments have been advised from time to time to expand Public Distribution System. At the last meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System which was held in May, 1984, there was a general consensus that States will strengthen the Public Distribution System at grass-root level and make it operationally effective; make an in-depth aPPraisal of the functioning of the Public Distribution System to ensure its impact as an anti-inflationary programme; increase commodity coverage so that more items of mass consumption are available to the people through Public Distribution System; develop a monitoring system at different levels for proper coordination in respect of procurement, storage and distribution of essential commodities; give adequate priority for construction of warehousing facilities at block|taluka level; ensure timely availability of essential commodities from fair price shops to the consumers; secure active and popular participation of the representatives of consumers and other public spirited persons for regular and sustained supervision of Public Distribution System by setting up Advisory|Vigilance Committees at different levels; and take strict action under the law against hoarding, profiteering and ackmarketing.

Electrification of Howrah-Madras and Bombay-Madras Rail Routes

337. SHRI R. SAMBA SIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up the electrification of the Howrah-Madras and Bombay-Madras rail routes in the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) Sections to be taken up for electrification, in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, have not yet been decided.

Use of River Waters

338. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian rivers carry about 1440 million acre feet of water per year;

(b) how much of this water is put to use; and

(c) what is the storage capacity created to utilise more river waters, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The surface water resources of the' country which includes river flows and water resources of lakes and ponds, are assessed at about 178 million hectare metres (1440 m. acre feet). However, owing to several limitations, only about 67 million ha. metres (540 m. acre feet) are utilisable. About 27.1 million ha. metres (220 m. acre feet) of the surface water resources ff assessed as being utilised at present.

(c) The State-wise break-up of storage capacities as available for